

## Post Due Diligence Questions and Clarifications

1	Do you want Section B completed and returned with proposal or should we develop our own Section B Model?
	Answer: Section B.5 has been amended to include a Transition CLIN during the base period and additional services. Offerors are encouraged to develop their own CLIN structure, but it should use the header CLINS as stated in B.5 at a minimum.
2	Section G.7, item 6 states that cost-type invoices shall be submitted no more than monthly but Section I-4 states something else. What's correct?
	Answer: Section G.7 takes precedence. The RFP has been amended to delete Section I.4 – FAR 52.216-7 – Allowable Cost and Payment (DEC 2002)
3	Section L does not call for the submission of Section K. Will these count as part of the 100 page total of the cost volume?
	Answer: The RFP has been amended to include Section K.16 (52.204-08 Annual Representations and Certifications (January 2005). Section L.9.1 of the RFP has also been amended to increase the page limitations for Volume II to 200 pages.  In addition, RFP Section L.9.3.2 has been amended to include a requirement for Section K data.
4	Section L.9.3.2, there is no COST/PRICE model reflected in the RFP yet the RFP calls out for one to be completed, please clarify.
	Answer: A cost/price model is being released with the RFP amendment.
5	The On-Line Library Item 44 contains two files identified as Cap Inventory and GFE Inventory. What is the difference between Cap Inventory and GFE Inventory? Are both inventories available to the offeror?
	Answer: CAP (Contractor Acquired Property) is incumbent-purchased equipment under the AWIPS contract and will become GFE property. This CAP inventory is owned and maintained by the incumbent. During transition, this equipment will be returned to the Government.  GFE Inventory is equipment that the Government purchased and provided to the incumbent. The Government is responsible for maintenance and upkeep of this equipment and it will be returned to the Government at contract end.  Both CAP and GFE Inventory will be available to the contract awardee.
6	Section J-4 of the RFP specifies three test bed systems at Mclean (2 RFCs and 1 WFO). Other documents provided in Item 44 of the On-Line Library indicate there is additional equipment at the Mclean facility. What is the state of this surplus equipment: Functional? Decommissioned? Spares inventory?
	Answer: There are two functional RFCs and one functional WFO at the incumbent's facility in McLean. The status of the "other than RFC/WFO Test Bed" equipment at the incumbent's facility in McLean is mixed. There is a Test NCF (functional), Test SBN (semi-functional) and a stripped Software Development and Integration Facility (SDIF) (non-functional). There's also a variety of other equipment that will convey as required.
7	Does the incumbent have any of their own (contractor owned/managed) systems connected to the AWIPS WAN or NWSNet? If so, what sort of IT security plan do they have on file and what security or contract referenced document was used in its creation?
	Answer: The incumbent has a Configuration Management System that is connected to NWSHQ through NWSNet. In addition, the incumbent has a subnet on the AWIPS network for diagnostic and troubleshooting purposes. The line will be GFE to the contract awardee if the Government maintains this connection in the follow-on contract. The security for these connections are consistent with the AWIPS/Agency/Department IT Security Policies. IT Security details will be discussed with the contract awardee during transition.
8	Will a new/updated Security Certification and Accreditation Plan be posted in the AWIPS On-line Library?

	Answer: No.
9	The AWIPS CM server is located at the incumbent's facility in Mclean, VA. Is the telecommunications line that links developers at NWS Headquarters to the CM server in Mclean, GFE? Is it part of the AWIPS WAN? NWSNet? A dedicated line? What is the data rate of this link?
	Answer: The incumbent has a Configuration Management System that is connected to NWSHQ through NWSnet. The line will be GFE to the winner if the Government maintains this connection in the follow-on contract.
10	Is Section K to be submitted in Volume 2 of the proposal? If so, are these pages counted as part of the 100 page total of the cost volume?
	Answer: Refer to the answer for Question #3
11	The RFP calls for a completed price/cost model in Section L.9.3.2. Is there a preferred template?
	Answer: Refer to the answer for Question #4
12	When will all the action items and questions from due diligence be answered?
	Answer: The AWIPS Team is currently working diligently to answer all outstanding questions. All will be answered as soon as possible.
13 a	Is it the intent of the NWS to shift the amount saved from the O&M base to the optional Product Improvement (\$70M) funds?
	Answer: No. The NWS intent is to spend (up to 30%) less on system O&M and to apply those O&M savings to sustaining engineering projects like replacing aging hardware components (such as printers or workstations) as part of our Continuous Technology Refresh (CTR) project.
13 b	If so, does this require funding to be reprogrammed?
	Answer: As long as the O&M savings are used for sustaining engineering projects such as those mentioned above, this will not require a reprogramming of funds.
13 c	If not, it is assumed the savings will be retained in the O&M base funding to accomplish product improvements. Can you please confirm this?
	Answer: Yes, that is correct.
13 d	Explain the difference between this "product improvement" as defined in the reference RFP paragraph and the optional "Product Improvement" funded at \$70M.
	Answer: The program currently receives two types of funding; Operations, Research, and Facilities, or ORF funds and Procurement, Acquisition, and Construction, or PAC funds. AWIPS Product Improvement (API) task orders that would be funded with ORF funds would be limited to sustaining engineering projects such as those mentioned above in 13(a). API projects that provide new site systems, significant new functionality, or that represent substantial changes in the system or software architecture would be funded with PAC funds.
14	Regarding SOW: Since the requirement for the SOW is not in Section L of the proposal, is it included in the page count?
	Answer: RFP Section 9.3.2.1 has been amended to further clarify the submission instructions.
15	Regarding SOW: Should it be submitted with one of the proposal volumes or separately?
	Answer: Please see amended RFP 9.3.
16	Regarding SOW: Since this is an ID/IQ contract, should the SOW the offeror submits be an enabling document against which more specific SOWs for Task Orders can be written or a very detailed document which Task Orders will incorporate into.
	Answer: Please see amended RFP 9.3.
17	Regarding Task Orders: As there are ID/IQ aspects of AWIPS the CSOW could be written as: 1) an enabling document for future Task Order SOW's to be written against; or 2) a very specific document that Task Orders will be incorporated into.
	Answer: Please submit your proposals in accordance with amended RFP Section 9.3
18	Please provide further definition regarding the process for issuing and adding Task Orders.
	Answer: Please see Section G.6 of the RFP.
19	The NWS organization presented during due diligence shows a solid line from the OOS COTR to the

	contractor and a dotted line from the OST Program manager. Is this relationship intended to continue for this contract?
	Answer: To the best of our knowledge, this relationship will continue. However, the PM indicated with the dotted line to the contractor, is not the Program Manager but is the COTR within the Program Management Branch.
20	Regarding Transition: In the current SOW, the incumbent is tasked with supporting contract phase-out activities in accordance with the AWIPS Service Contract Phase-out Plan. Please post this plan to the AWIPS On-Line Library.
	Answer: This will be posted to the AWIPS Online library when it is available. It is currently due at the end of February 2005.
21	Regarding Transition: What duration does the plan cover? Should the offeror assume that the tasks in this plan will be funded by NWS?
	Answer: The transition period, at a minimum, will be from contract award (currently planned for July 15, 2005) through September 30, 2005. The Phase-in plan will be funded by the NWS. A CLIN has been added to Section B.5 of the amended RFP for transition.
22	Regarding Transition: Is any incumbent support in addition to what is in the plan to be priced by the offeror?
	Answer: No.
23	CLIN 220 on the current contract is not referenced in the contract SOW. Please describe the effort performed under this CLIN
	Answer: CLIN 220 is to cover hardware materials.
24	Will there be an increase in page count to the Cost Volume?
	Rationale: Basis of Estimates, boilerplate information, Socioeconomic/Subcontracting goals, Disclosure Statement, and cost reports for a program require more pages.
	Answer: Yes, the RFP will be amended to allow for the cost volume to be 200 pages.
25	A "Price/Cost Model" is mentioned. Please provide further detail as to what is required for this model.
	Answer: Refer to the answer to Question #4
26	Regarding Test Beds/GFE: The Customer lists multiple locations for test labs and associated equipment. Specifically which items in the existing equipment list is GFE to the winning contractor? For example the industry day charts list 4 contractor test systems. What software/hardware is included with each system?
	Answer: All items on the list will be transferred as GFE to the contract awardee. Regarding the software/hardware, additional information will be added to the AWIPS Online library after the incumbent's Phase-Out plan is posted.
27	Regarding Test Beds/GFE: Are all these systems GFE to the winning contractor?
	Answer: Yes, the test beds will be GFE'd to the contract awardee.
28	Is the contractor responsible for all CM or will the government continue to maintain a separate CM repository for hardware documentation, and drawings from software repository, documentation and drawings?
	Answer: The Government will continue to maintain a separate CM repository, however, the contractor will need to maintain their own CM repository to support their technical solution.
29	Due Diligence presentation indicated all HP work stations are replaced by Linux work stations, but they are still on the AWIPS Hardware list. Please clarify.
	Answer: Only some of the HP work stations are replaced by Linux. There is a least one HP work station at each of the 13 RFCs.
30	Where and in what test lab environment does Acceptance Test Occur?
	Rationale: Impacts Transition Planning.
	Answer: System Acceptance Testing (SyAT) is currently performed at the incumbent's facility in their lab utilizing Government-provided test bed systems.
31	Is NCF training material transferrable to the successor?
	Rationale: Impacts scope of training
	Answer: Yes, what is available will be provided after contract award to the contract awardee.

32	<p>How often is the Backup-NCF Tested? When was the last time the Backup NCF is tested prior to transition? What is the roll over strategy between the Primary NCF and the Backup NCF (frequency, skills, level of automation)</p> <p>Rationale: Impacts Transition Planning for Backup NCF.</p>																		
	<p>Answer: It is tested semi-annually and a switch over from ANCF to BNCF and back is done periodically. The backup NCF can be activated by the prime contractor with Government notification.</p>																		
33	<p>Please provide detailed version level information on existing Network Security Infrastructure? E.g. Are firewalls truly Gauntlet, or Sidewinder? Which version of Gauntlet is being used? What size/IOS version of Routers are used?</p> <p>Rationale: May have significant impact on Security of Network infrastructure and will impact decisions on upgrade requirements and current capabilities.</p>																		
	<p>Answer: Old Firewalls are Gauntlet, make and model uncertain but not important since they are being replaced this year. New Firewalls are Netscreen 25 models, manufactured by Juniper Networks and will be installed by the end of FY05. The incumbent will continue to be responsible for the operations and maintenance of the Gauntlet firewalls until they are replaced by the Netscreen 25 models.</p> <p>The new routers for AWIPS are all Cisco. These will all be installed by the middle of March 2005. The following data indicates the model numbers, quantity &amp; IOS version of these routers:</p> <table><tr><th>Make/Model</th><th>Quantity</th><th>IOS Version</th></tr><tr><td>Cisco model 2691 (new, for WFO's)</td><td>268</td><td>c2691-advceurityk9-mz.123-8.T4.bin</td></tr><tr><td>Cisco model 3725 (new, for RFC's)</td><td>28</td><td>c3725-advceurityk9-mz.123-8.T4.bin</td></tr><tr><td>Cisco model 7505 (upgrades for NC's)</td><td>8</td><td>rsp-ik9sv-mz.123-8.T4.bin</td></tr><tr><td>Cisco model 7507 (new for NCF)</td><td>2</td><td>rsp-ik9sv-mz.123-8.T4.bin</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>306</b></td><td></td></tr></table>	Make/Model	Quantity	IOS Version	Cisco model 2691 (new, for WFO's)	268	c2691-advceurityk9-mz.123-8.T4.bin	Cisco model 3725 (new, for RFC's)	28	c3725-advceurityk9-mz.123-8.T4.bin	Cisco model 7505 (upgrades for NC's)	8	rsp-ik9sv-mz.123-8.T4.bin	Cisco model 7507 (new for NCF)	2	rsp-ik9sv-mz.123-8.T4.bin	<b>Total</b>	<b>306</b>	
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34	<p>Create stretch goals that are based on a foundation to drive innovation.</p> <p>Rationale: Given that you are asking us to prepare the QASP - we would like to know where your baseline currently stands and what your expectations are?</p>																		
	<p>Answer: Offerors are asked to propose based on their understanding of the NWS AWIPS baseline and goals.</p>																		
35 - 39	<p>Rationale: Regarding Model Contract: Usually, a bidding contractor executes an SF Form 30 and includes it with a "Model Contract" as part of a proposal, however, the latest AWIPS RFP provisions state that NWS is requesting only an SF Form 33 to be included with the Phase 2 proposal. The following questions are regarding the Model Contract.....</p>																		
35	<p>Regarding Model Contract: Other than the SF Form 33, what other contract documents does NWS expect to receive with the Phase 2 proposal?</p>																		
	<p>Answer: The RFP has been amended to reference SF Form 1447.</p>																		
36	<p>Regarding Model Contract: If contract documents are expected with the proposal will they be counted against the total page count?</p>																		
	<p>Answer: See Amended Section L.9 of the RFP</p>																		
37	<p>Regarding Model Contract: If contract documents are not expected with the proposal, does NWS plan to provide a formal "Model Contract" and SF Form 30 to the winning contractor upon award prior to negotiations?</p>																		
	<p>Answer: See Amended Section L.9 of the RFP</p>																		
38	<p>Regarding Model Contract: When the AWIPS contract is awarded in July, 2005, does NWS plan to issue a "Letter Contract" with funding that will allow the winning contractor to immediately begin "Transition" activities chargeable to the contract?</p>																		
	<p>Answer: No.</p>																		
39	<p>Regarding Model Contract: What process and schedule does NWS anticipate for contract award, negotiations, to definitize the contract, kick-off meetings, etc.?</p>																		
	<p>Answer: Contract award is planned for 07/15/05. Negotiations are expected to take place prior to the</p>																		

	award date.																																										
40	Regarding RFP: When is the expected timeframe for posting the RFP amendment?																																										
	Answer: This question has been overcome by events. The RFP Amendment includes this question.																																										
41	What is PoP for the NWS NET?																																										
	Answer: If PoP means Point of Presence, the answer is as follows: The Point of Presence for every AWIPS system is and will continue to be provided by Sprint under the FTS2001 contract.																																										
42	What will be the relationship to software support contractors currently in the Meteorological Development Lab (or elsewhere) and the AWIPS contractor?																																										
	Answer: The prime contractor and the government laboratories and their support contractors will be members of a single software team.																																										
43	<p>During the Due Diligence session, there was a discussion on Section B of the RFP. The following summarizes our understanding of those discussions and includes some suggested changes for Section B.</p> <p>We are suggesting that all three components are identified with a CLIN. Therefore, for example, the components would be identified as follows: CLIN 1000 Operations and Maintenance, CLIN 2000 Product Improvement, and CLIN 3000 Software Maintenance and Support.</p> <p>Therefore, please confirm, as it is our understanding that the Government requires offerors to provide pricing for all three CLINs of the contract: (1) Operations &amp; Maintenance (Base Contract); (2) Product Improvement (Option); and (3) S/W Maintenance &amp; Support (Option). The Product Improvement and S/W Maintenance CLINs are to be priced based on the offerors realistic estimate of the activities to be performed consistent with the technical approach. Further, it is understood that after award these CLIN options will be awarded and funded on a Task Order basis.</p> <p>In addition, please confirm that the Period of Performance for all three CLINs of the contract is the Five-Year Base Period plus five One-Year Award Terms for a total of ten (10) contract periods.</p> <p>We are also suggesting that the sentence in the second paragraph of B.3 be revised to read, "The labor rates shall cover the entire contract period of ten (10) years.</p> <p>To accommodate the above it is suggested to change the Contract Line Item Number structure to the following:</p> <table><tr><td>YEAR</td><td>FIRM-FIXED PRICE</td><td>COST-REIMBURSEMENT</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">5-Year Base Period</td></tr><tr><td>CLIN 1000 Ops &amp; Maint</td><td>\$ _____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr><tr><td>CLIN 2000 Prod Improvement</td><td>\$ _____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr><tr><td>CLIN 3000 S/W Maint &amp; Spt</td><td>\$ _____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Award Term 1 (1-year period of performance)</td></tr><tr><td>CLIN 1001 Ops &amp; Maint</td><td>\$ _____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr><tr><td>CLIN 2001 Prod Improv</td><td>\$ _____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr><tr><td>CLIN 3001 S/W Maint &amp; Spt</td><td>\$ _____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Award Term 2 (1-year period of performance)</td></tr><tr><td>CLIN 1002 Ops &amp; Maint</td><td>\$ _____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr><tr><td>CLIN 2002 Prod Improv</td><td>\$ _____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr><tr><td>CLIN 3002 S/W Maint &amp; Spt</td><td>\$ _____</td><td>\$ _____</td></tr><tr><td colspan="3">Award Term 3 (1-year period of performance)</td></tr></table>	YEAR	FIRM-FIXED PRICE	COST-REIMBURSEMENT	5-Year Base Period			CLIN 1000 Ops & Maint	\$ _____	\$ _____	CLIN 2000 Prod Improvement	\$ _____	\$ _____	CLIN 3000 S/W Maint & Spt	\$ _____	\$ _____	Award Term 1 (1-year period of performance)			CLIN 1001 Ops & Maint	\$ _____	\$ _____	CLIN 2001 Prod Improv	\$ _____	\$ _____	CLIN 3001 S/W Maint & Spt	\$ _____	\$ _____	Award Term 2 (1-year period of performance)			CLIN 1002 Ops & Maint	\$ _____	\$ _____	CLIN 2002 Prod Improv	\$ _____	\$ _____	CLIN 3002 S/W Maint & Spt	\$ _____	\$ _____	Award Term 3 (1-year period of performance)		
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	<p>Answer: Please see amended RFP Sections B.3 and B.5. Regarding the Period of Performance for all three CLINs: The Operations &amp; Maintenance CLIN will have ten (10) contract periods; however, the Hardware Product Improvement and Software Product Improvement CLINS are optional and will be exercised upon the Government's need. However, the base and both options should be priced for the entire ten year period.</p>
44	<p>Reference: L.9.3.2 – Volume II: Price/Cost Proposal</p> <p>Discussion: In reviewing the proposal preparation instructions, it is not clear where the Government desires to have completed Section K provided. We recommend that it be included in Volume II, but be excluded from page count.</p>
	<p>Answer: Refer to Response to Question #3.</p>
45	<p>Reference: Compliance Matrix</p> <p>Discussion: We would like to provide a mapping of solicitation requirements to proposal sections to facilitate evaluators locating where specific information is discussed. We recommend that it be permitted and excluded from page count.</p>
	<p>Answer: You are free to include a compliance matrix, however, it will be included in the page count.</p>
46	<p>Reference: L.9.3.1 – Volume I, Technical Proposal, Factor 1: Technical Solution, Subfactor b: Transition Plan (Phase-In and Phase-out)</p> <p>M.2.2 – Evaluation Criteria, Factor 1: Technical Solution, Subfactor b: Transition Plan</p> <p>Discussion: RFP Section L.9.3.1, Factor 1, Subfactor b, Transition Plan (Phase-In and Phase-Out) and Section M.2.2, Factor 1, Subfactor b Transition Plan, do not seem consistent. The Section L requirement is to provide a plan for starting work up on the new contract and for moving the work to a follow-on contract at the end of the period of performance. However, the Section M requirement seems to address a consulting activity relating to internal NWS process improvement. We believe the Section L requirement reflects the Government's intent. Please clarify.</p>
	<p>Answer: See amended RFP M.2.2, Factor 1.b</p>
47	<p>Reference: H.12 – Section 508 Accessibility</p> <p>Discussion: The section indicates the desire to have 508 compliance tables. Where within Volume II would the Government like this information to be provided? Because these compliance tables can be extensive, we recommend that they be excluded from page count.</p>
	<p>Answer: See Amended RFP Sections L.9.3 and L.9.3.2. These will not be excluded from the page count.</p>
48	<p>In Section M.2.2, Factor 4 (page 102), subparagraph 5, second bullet, under the discussion of Factor 4: Subcontracting/Socioeconomic Goals, states that the DOC's Procurement Preference Program Goals include "Small Disabled Business – 16%." Should the text of this bullet be changed to "Small Disadvantaged Business – 16%"?</p>
	<p>Answer: That is correct, Section M.2.2. of the RFP has been amended to read "Small Disadvantaged</p>

	Business.”
49	In the offeror’s Volume II Price/Cost Proposal response, are the SF33, Section B (CLINs), Section K (Representations, Certifications) and any explanations/exceptions required excluded from the 100 maximum page count?
	Answer: Refer to answer to question #3.
50	In Section L.9.3.2.1, at “Factor 2: Performance Measurement, Subfactor b: Service Level Agreements (SLAs),” states that, “Offerors may submit Service Level Agreements to indicate levels of service that will be offered to the Government.” Are Service Level Agreements submitted with the Phase 2 proposal excluded from the page limit of Volume I, Technical Proposal? If they are to be excluded from the page limit, we offer the following text as a suggested replacement: “All Service Level Agreements submitted by the Offeror are excluded from the page limit of Volume I, Technical Proposal, and can be provided as an Appendix A to the Technical Proposal.”
	Answer: See Amended Section L.9.3.1, Factor 2, Subfactor a. This data will be included in the page limitations specified for Volume 1.
51	In Section L.9.3.1 Volume I, Technical Proposal, Subfactor a: Management Solution, Resource Management Plan (p. 86), the section states that, “Resumes of proposed Key personnel should be submitted in the proposal.” Are resumes excluded from the page limit established for Volume I, Technical Proposal? If they are to be excluded from the page limit, we offer the following text as a suggested replacement: “Resumes for Key personnel will be submitted in the proposal, but are excluded from the page limit established for Volume I, Technical Proposal.”
	Answer: Resumes for key personnel will be included in the page count.
52	In Section M 2.2, Factor 1, Subfactor b: Transition Plan (p. 100) Paragraph 2, the Section M Evaluation Criteria only evaluates transition of processes and omits evaluation of minimization of start-up requirements. It appears that a Section M paragraph has been omitted. We recommend the Section M Evaluation Criteria be revised to include the following elements of transition from Section L: Details to minimize disruption and start-up requirements; details of how the offeror plans to address staffing, including recruiting, hiring, training and security requirements, and any other special considerations of the prospective providers to reflect a transition period of realistic length and requirements; details of seamless transition of subcontracted services, logistics and maintenance; details of regarding the phase-out period of the contract when the contract ends.
	Answer: Please refer to answer to Question #46.
53	In Section L.9.3.1, Subfactor b: Transition Plan (Phase-In and Phase-Out), should the offeror cost the transition period as part of its Volume II Price/Cost Proposal or is it separately funded?
	Answer: The funding for transition will be separate (not included in the Operations and Maintenance funding). The offeror should cost the transition period as part of Volume II.
54	In Section C (p.5, first paragraph), a Contractor Statement of Work (CSOW) is required. Is the CSOW excluded from page count? Where should the CSOW be included in the offeror’s response (e.g., an Appendix to Volume I, Technical Proposal)?
	Answer: Refer to answers to Questions 14-17
55	In Section L.9.1, Phase 2 Page Limitations – Volume II, Price/Cost Proposal, the Volume II Price/Cost Proposal is limited to 100 pages. Can the page limitation to Volume II, Price/Cost Proposal be changed to “no page limit” so offerors can adequately respond to RFP requirements?
	Answer: The Volume II Page limitations have been increased to 200 pages. See Amended RFP Section L.9.1.
56 a	The following questions concern the list of AWIPS hardware provided on the AWIPS Online Library (item 44(a) – AWIPS CAP and GFE Property – “AWIPS Hardware”). On the list of AWIPS hardware, there are several pieces of equipment that do not have serial numbers. Can we be provided the serial numbers for all the equipment to be maintained?
	Answer: The serial numbers that are required and available have been provided on the AWIPS Hardware inventory (Item 44 (a) on AWIPS Online Library).
56 b	Are the consumables (e.g., tape cartridges, etc.) included in this hardware list considered part of the AWIPS O&M contract? If not, please provide an estimated annual consumption level for these items. If not, we suggest that the consumables items be removed from the maintenance contract.
	Answer: Yes. Consumables are considered part of the AWIPS O&M contract.
56 c	Our understanding is that the BNCF list of equipment is a duplicate of the NCF equipment. If this is not

	correct, please provide the complete list of equipment in the NCF.
	Answer: The BNCF equipment list is not a duplicate of the NCF equipment. Please see the parts listing under Item 43 (e) on the AWIPS Online Library to obtain the list of equipment in the NCF.
56 d	Please clarify any contractor-maintained equipment that cannot be refreshed due to unique NWS applications (e.g., custom AWIPS drivers, etc.).
	Answer: We do not know of any issues that would prevent hardware refresh.
56 e	Is there any spares pool for the contractor-maintained hardware that would transfer to the new contractor? If yes, where are the spares located, and what do they consist of (item description and quantity)?
	Answer: No, there is no spares pool for contractor-maintained hardware that would transfer to the new contractor.
56 f	Can we have access to the last 6 months of failure data for the contractor-maintained equipment list?
	Answer: The Performance Availability Reports that are posted on the AWIPS Online Library.
56 g	On the list of AWIPS hardware, what is considered critical priority, high priority, and low priority from an operations perspective for the contractor-maintained hardware?
	Answer: The Government does not classify equipment by priority.
57	The following questions concern the list of AWIPS COTS Software provided on the AWIPS Online Library (item 7 – “COTS Software and Hardware Evaluation” 7/28/03).
58 a	The COTS Software and Hardware Evaluation document AWP.RPT.SWU-30.00 is dated 28 July 03 in the online library. Is there a more recent version of this document available?
	Answer: This information is provided in the CDRL SO-24 entitled COTS Software and Hardware Evaluation, dated 1/20/05. This is posted on the AWIPS Online Library as Item #58.
58 b	Please provide a list of COTS Software Licenses including version, number of users, when the licenses expire, etc.
	Answer: This information is provided in the CDRL SO-24 entitled COTS Software and Hardware Evaluation, dated 1/20/05. This is posted on the AWIPS Online Library as Item #58.
59 a	The following questions concern the list of AWIPS list of NLSC approved spares provided on the AWIPS Online Library (item 47 – “List of approved spares in NLSC”). a. Please provide an itemized list of what is included in the RFC Kit (ASN M100-KIT-1) and in the WFO Kit (ASN M100-KIT-2).
	Answer: These are posted on the AWIPS Online Library as Item #60.
59 b	Please define the make and model of the antenna (ASN M100-SB1B). Does this antenna model include deice?
	Answer: The antenna is a Prodelin 3.7 meter antenna that was excess equipment from the Central Region Headquarters when it moved from its current location. It is a single antenna that is at the NLSC as a spare in the event that there is a need. However, the NLSC does not logistically support the antennas.
59 c	The NLSC provides logistical support for the standard AWIPS antenna (ASN M100-SB1B). There are a number of field offices that have non-standard antennas. If there are maintenance issues with a non-standard antenna, can the non-standard antenna be replaced with a standard AWIPS antenna? Is the AWIPS O&M Contractor responsible for maintenance and repair of the non-standard AWIPS antennas? For the non-standard antennas, do the field offices retain any on-site spares, specifically? If so, please provide a spares list.
	Answer: Again, the NLSC does not support the SBN antennas. AWIPS uses four baseline antenna types to support AWIPS. They are the Prodelin 3.7 meter; COMTECH 3.8 meter; Andrew 4.5 meter; and Andrew 7.3 meter C band antennas. Most antennas in the upper U.S. are fitted with back-fit Walton deicer devices. The Walton deicers are activated by a DS-2 rain/snow sensor controller manufactured by Automated Systems Engineering Company.
59 d	Are there spares pools for the contractor's maintained hardware that would transfer to the new contract? If so, where are they located and what do they consist of (item description and quantity). Would the contractor be responsible for maintaining spares for standard/nonstandard AWIPS hardware not supported by NLSC?
	Answer: Refer to answer to Question # 56 (e)
60	Reference: Section C, Opening Paragraph  The solicitation states, “The Statement of Work of the successful offeror shall be incorporated into Section



	C of the contract.” Please clarify if the Government intended to say “Statement of Work” rather than “Performance Work Statement.” Whichever is correct, please clarify when it is to be submitted. If it is to be submitted as part of the proposal, please clarify where it is to be placed and amend the page limitations to accommodate the additional material.
	Answer: See amended Section C of the RFP.
61	<p>Reference: L.9.3.2, Volume II: Price/Cost Proposal, Factor 5, Past Performance.</p> <p>Given the restriction on pages in Volume II, will the Government consider deleting Factor 5 from Volume II and request that any refreshed past performance data be submitted as change pages to the Phase 1, Factor 1, Past Performance, document and submitted separately?</p>
	Answer: Yes, they may be submitted as change pages to the Phase 1 documents.
62	<p>Reference: L.9.3.3 Volume I, Technical Proposal, Factor 1, Subfactor g: Software Maintenance and Support Option.</p> <p>Offerors may elect to achieve cost savings by employing offshore or near-shore software development and/or support. Considering the mission-critical nature of AWIPS, would such an approach be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Desirable?</li> <li>Allowable?</li> <li>Is there any contractual prohibition for the use of offshore software development and/or support?</li> </ol>
	Answer: Offerors’ solutions must be in accordance with applicable Federal Laws/Regulations.
63	<p>Reference: Section L.9.9.3.1, Volume I, Factor 1, Subfactor c: Operations and Maintenance Solution.</p> <p>The RFP defines “legacy and future contractor-developed software” as part of the O&amp;M. During Due diligence, the briefing, “Discussions of AWIPS Program, NWS and AWIPS Goals, and the Organization,” (slides 19-21) did not include legacy and future software. Please confirm the RFP is correct.</p>
	Answer: Legacy and future contractor-developed software was addressed in the briefing by Chuck Piercy on page 20 under <i>NCF New Functionality</i> as well as page 21 under <i>Software Release Support</i> . The RFP is correct.
64	<p>Reference: Transition</p> <p>During Transition, will the new contractor have access to the incumbent’s testing facilities (e.g., hardware, test documentation, and test data) and personnel?</p> <p>How many test strings will be transitioned to the new contractor and when? Can we assume that the test streams (environments) that the incumbent uses will be conveyed to the new contractor? Will any of the streams be physically transferred during transition for installation in the new contractor’s lab? If so, when and how many?</p>
	<p>Answer: The new contractor will have access to test documentation and test data, and incumbent personnel, but may not have access to the incumbent’s testing facilities.</p> <p>All test bed systems will be transitioned to the new contractor no later than the end of the current contract.</p>
65	<p>Reference: Software development and maintenance contracts that support NWS development organizations (FSL, MDL, OHD, and SEC).</p> <p>What are the contracts’ period of performance, SOW, value, and type (e.g., FFP, CPFF)?</p> <p>Question: What percentage of the work performed under each of the contracts is onsite at NWS?</p>
	<p>Answer: The SEC software support contract under which we are currently consolidating software maintenance expires September 30, 2005.</p> <p>The SOW, value and contract type of these contracts will not be released.</p> <p>100% of this work is performed on NOAA facilities. Approximately 25% of the work is performed at Boulder, CO.</p> <p>In addition, refer to the discussion on Technology Transfer on pages 27-32 of Edward Mandel’s Due Diligence Presentation “Relationship of AWIPS Prime with AWIPS Development Organizations and the Software Development Life Cycle.”</p>

66	<p>Reference: Due Diligence presentation by Randy Chambers</p> <p>Please identify the database and/or applications currently used to support the <u>Performance Management System</u> in use by the NCF and clarify whether these components will convey upon contract award.</p>
	<p>Answer: The NCF tools including HP, IT-Operations, HP OpenView, Netmetrics, Remedy, TrendSNMP, HP Measureware. These tools will be available to the contract awardee at contract award.</p>
67	<p>Reference: Due Diligence discussion concerning "Track 1" and "Track 2" O&amp;M duties and responsibilities.</p> <p>Please clarify the inventory management and tracking responsibilities the AWIPS contractor will assume upon contract award and whether the inventory database and/or applications used by the incumbent to support current inventory management and tracking will convey upon contract award. (Note: During Due Diligence discussions the difference between "Track 1" and "Track 2" O&amp;M duties and responsibilities were clearly described, but the prime contractor's overall AWIPS inventory management and tracking responsibilities and the status of supporting database and applications tools (i.e., GFE vs. contractor-owned or -provided) remain unclear.</p>
	<p>Answer: The hardware and software CM database, RDBMS software, and the hardware that it is hosted on are owned by the incumbent contractor. The contract awardee will be expected to deliver the same service. The historical configuration management data will be provided as GFI.</p>
68	<p>Reference: General Information.</p> <p>Please provide a copy of the "AWIPS Market Research Report" dated 03/31/04. We understand the report provides the results of NWS meetings with companies involved in areas important to the AWIPS program.</p>
	<p>Answer: The AWIPS Market Research Report contains proprietary data and cannot be shared among offerors.</p>
69	<p>Reference: COTS Software Licenses and Maintenance, Due Diligence Briefing, Chuck Piercy slides, "Discussion of AWIPS Program, NWS, and AWIPS Goals, and the NWS Organization," (pages 19 to 21).</p> <p>Please clarify who (Government or Contractor) is responsible for COTS software license and maintenance fees and whether or not renewals are annual. If the Contractor is responsible, please identify the current version and number of copies for each of the 60 software packages addressed on slide 19 and where they are located. Does the incumbent currently provide software packages other than those associated with the NCF or Help Desk support?</p>
	<p>Answer: Refer to Answer to Question 58(b)</p>
70	<p>Reference: Software Configuration Management.</p> <p>During Due Diligence, it was stated that software configuration management is supported by the incumbent from their own facility using Contractor provided software. Please clarify whether the server on which the software resides and/or the historical configuration management data being maintained on that server will be provided as Government-furnished equipment (GFE) and/or Government-furnished information (GFI)?</p>
	<p>Answer: See answer to Question #67.</p>
71	<p>Reference: Award Term Plan.</p> <p>How will the Government evaluate the contractor's performance to determine whether or not the award terms will be exercised? Will the Government be providing an Award Term Plan (similar to an Award Fee Plan) as part of the RFP or is the offeror to propose the plan?</p> <p>If the offeror is to propose the plan, please identify where in the proposal it is to be included and how it will be evaluated.</p>
	<p>Answer: The Government is responsible for developing an Award Term Plan. Please see amendment to RFP. Section H.29 and Attachment J-5 for a representative Award Term Plan for the AWIPS Program.</p>
72	<p>Reference: Government-Furnished Facilities.</p> <p>It is our understanding that the majority of software maintenance is currently performed in Government-furnished facilities. Is it the Government's intent to continue to have the majority of software maintenance performed in Government-furnished facilities?</p>

	Answer: The Government is looking for offerors to propose the best solutions.
73	<p>Reference: Contingency Support Operations.</p> <p>During Due Diligence, the general process for supporting continuity of operations (COOP) was discussed. Please define the incumbent's role in switching SBN communications between the MGS and BMGS (or vice versa). Does the incumbent staff within the NCF execute the switch, contact government personnel who execute the switch, or contact supporting Contractors/subcontractors who execute the switch?</p>
	Answer: The process is coordinated with the Government. Execution of the switch is completed by incumbent staff.
74	<p>Reference: Certification &amp; Accreditation Requirements.</p> <p>Are Contractor facilities required to be included in AWIPS Certification and Accreditation Plans and packages? If so, does this requirement extend to all Contractor facilities or only those that are directly connected (via electronic means) to NWS facilities?</p>
	Answer: Yes, contractor facilities are required to be included in C&A plans and packages. This requirement extends to contractor facilities that are directly connected to NWS facilities only.
75	<p>Reference: Computing Capacity: "AWIPS Architecture and Product Improvement Plans: (Due Diligence Briefings, Day 3, Tim Hopkins slides) pages 3-5.</p> <p>During Due Diligence, the computing capacity of the legacy architecture and Linux Phase I and Phase II (Target) Architectures were described in terms of millions of floating point operations (MFLOPS). Documentation provided to date describes raw processing power of the AWIPS suites only in terms of the MIPS ratings of legacy HP workstations. Please clarify whether the MFLOPS ratings provided during Due Diligence are an aggregate for all systems depicted within an average AWIPS WFO site (i.e., – 5 Linux WS + 2 Linux CPs +...). In addition, please provide the average non-workstation processing profile at WFO and RFC sites (i.e. - the relative percentage of inter- and intra-site communications vs. data ingest vs. input/output operations vs. local data processing/modeling calculations (floating point operations)) in order to assist in hardware configuration analysis.</p>
	<p>Answer: The MFLOPS ratings are an aggregate for all systems depicted within an average AWIPS WFO site.</p> <p>The CPU utilization is contained in Appendix G of the Performance Availability Reports, entitled "CPU Utilization Trouble Tickets". This appendix contains plenty of information on our server CPU utilization and even some System Performance Rating (SPR) data. These reports are posted on the AWIPS Online Library.</p>
76	<p>Reference: Future Data Volumes</p> <p>Please clarify whether the NWS has any future data volume projections that bidders should use as the basis of AWIPS capacity planning and analysis relative to anticipated data type and volume increases (i.e., – NPOESS, GOES-R, and finer model resolution data loading estimates).</p>
	Answer: See Backup Slides from Chuck Piercy's Due Diligence presentation, "Discussion of AWIPS Program, NWS and AWIPS Goals, and the NWS Organization," for model resolution data. NPOESS and GOES-R data requirements have not yet been defined.
77 a	<p>Reference: H.24 Harmless from Liability.</p> <p>We are concerned that the Clause at H.24, Harmless from Liability, could be construed as potentially giving the Government the right to be held harmless (indemnified) by the Contractor for personal injury or property damage to third parties where the Contractor is only <u>partially</u> at fault; that is, to enable the Government to completely shift liability to the Contractor for personal injury or property damage to third parties that results from the <u>Government's</u> fault or negligence in situations where the Contractor (or its subcontractors, employees, or agents) is also partially responsible for the injury or damage. Would you explain whether that is how the Government interprets H.24?</p>
	Answer: Section H.24. Harmless from Liability, has been deleted from the RFP.
77 b	Assuming the Government interprets H.24 in the manner suggested above, has the Government considered the possibility that the potential increase in Contractor exposure could affect how offerors price

	their proposals and thus result in increased costs to the Government?
	Answer: Section H.24. Harmless from Liability, has been deleted from the RFP.
77 c	If the Government does not interpret H.24 in the manner suggested above, how does the Government interpret this clause?
	Answer: Section H.24. Harmless from Liability, has been deleted from the RFP.
77 d	Have there been any third party claims or suits for personal injury or property damage filed against the NWS or the incumbent AWIPS Contractor involving or relating to (a) the operation or maintenance of the AWIPS; or (b) the adequacy of the AWIPS for weather forecasting?
	Answer: No third party lawsuits have been filed against the Government relating to the operation and maintenance of AWIPS or the adequacy of AWIPS weather forecasting. To the best of our knowledge, no such lawsuits have been filed against the AWIPS incumbent contractor.
77 e	The H.24 clause appears to be a change in direction from the incumbent's AWIPS contract. We note that Contract 50-SPNA-3-00001, Clause H.30 calls out Public Law 85-804 and Executive Order 10789, and indemnifies the Contractor and its subcontractors of any tier for third party liability in excess of \$10 million. Will the Government consider a third party limitation of liability cap for the Contractor similar to current AWIPS contract clause H.30?
	Answer: No. The Government will not establish a third party cap on liability.
78	<p>Reference: OB4 Source Code.</p> <p>The OB4 Source Code is populated with tens of copyright notices and license statements. Some of these license notices include the GNU General Public License (GPL) and the Netscape General Public License (NPL).</p> <p>Does the Government believe that the AWIPS source code currently falls under the auspices of the GPL and NPL requiring contribution of source code back to the Open Source community?</p> <p>Once the AWIPS Recompete contract is awarded, and maintenance of the code results in a commercial gain to the successful Contractor, does the Government believe the requirements for contribution of the source code back to the Open Source will then apply?</p>
	Answer: No.
79 a	<p>Reference: Section I, 52.227-01, Authorization and Consent; 52.227-03, Patent Indemnity; 52.227-14, Rights in Data—General; 52.227-17, Rights in Data—Special Works</p> <p>Please specify that data to which each of these clauses will apply.</p>
	Answer: FAR 52.227-01, 52.227-03 and 52.227-14, will apply to the contract. The Government anticipates that FAR 52.227-17, Rights in Data – Special Works, will apply, if at all, to portions of the data for which the Government may determine requires limited distribution and/or indemnification. The applicability of the latter provision is subject to negotiation in advance of performance of work.
79 b	Please identify when the Contractor will be required to indemnify the Government as required in 52.227-03 and 52.227-17.
	Answer: Refer to answer to question 79(a)
79 c	If we are modifying existing AWIPS code that is subject to the aforementioned clauses and possibly other software licenses (e.g., GPL and NPL) how can we comply with 52.227-03 and 52.227-17.
	Answer: Offerors should state in their proposal which clauses apply and which do not. These are subject to negotiation.
79 d	Please identify if you expect 52.227-17 to apply to all data or portions of the data.
	Answer: 52.227-17 will apply, if at all, to portions of the data that will be identified for that purpose.
79 e	e. If portions, which portions?

	Answer: Refer to answer for question 79(a)
80	<p>Reference: RFP Section B.2 and Due Diligence Briefing “Relationship of AWIPS Prime with AWIPS Development Organizations and the Software Development Life Cycle” by Mr. Edward Mandel (slide 3).</p> <p>The slide discusses the percentage of time used for software maintenance by each lab. Using the FSL data for example, the slide defines 40% of the 10 FTEs work on maintenance. Based on this information, the balance of 6 FTEs work on non-maintenance activities. Please provide a breakdown of the remaining 60% effort, specifically what percentage is focused on new science versus software development to “productionize” that new science.</p> <p>Please clarify how the 30% reserved for software development by Government laboratories relates to the 60% effort (described above).</p> <p>Is the integration and “productionization” of new science into the Operational Build baseline to be priced as part of the Software Maintenance and Support Option, or as part of Technology Refresh Option (i.e., the Product Improvement Option budget)?</p>
	<p>Answer: 1. Regarding the FSL data, approximately 3 FTEs are devoted to GFE development and 2 to AWIPS development; 1 FTE is the task manager. There is currently no effort made towards productionizing code by any organization at this time.</p> <p>3. Productionizing of code can occur as an O&amp;M task if it improves software quality and drives down O&amp;M costs. It is up to the discretion of the vendor as to how to accomplish this activity.</p> <p>4. There may be productionizing associated with any system wide re-architecture, which would be a product improvement task.</p>
81	<p>Reference: PVCS Dimensions System</p> <p>Does the Government have a plan to bring forward the historical data from the old PVCS Dimensions System maintained by NGIT?</p>
	Answer: Historical PVCS software baseline work sets, in addition to historical DR metrics, will be available to the contract awardee upon contract award.
82	<p>At industry day, the Contracting Officer mentioned that the 44% Small Business Subcontracting Goal is 44% of total contract value, and NOT subcontracted dollars, but that this figure is only a goal. He also stated this position again during the public presentation. Question 37 in Amendment 1 stated that we could use second tier subcontracting numbers in order to achieve the 44% goal. However, neither the question nor the RFP directly indicates that 44% Small Business Subcontracting Goal is a percentage of contract value.</p> <p>Please confirm in the upcoming amendment that the 44% Small Business Subcontracting Goal is a percentage of contract value and that second tier subcontracting numbers can be used in the primes reporting to achieve this goal.</p>
	Answer: The Small Business Subcontracting Goal is 44% of total contract value. Prime contractors will receive credit for the Small Business Goals at the second-tier subcontract level. Refer to amendment section M.2.2.